

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN AL BISHOP**, on January 5, 2001 at 2 P.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Al Bishop, Chairman (R)
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Royal Johnson (R)
Sen. Jerry O'Neil (R)
Sen. Emily Stonington (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Duane Grimes, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Sen. Bob DePratu (R)
Sen. Don Hargrove (R)
Sen. Fred Thomas (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jeanne Forrester, Committee Secretary
Susan Fox, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Organizational Meeting
Executive Action:

SEN. BISHOP called the organizational meeting to order and introduced **SEN. BOB KEENAN, SD 38, Bigfork**, who had an announcement to make. On Friday, January 13, 2001, there will be a joint meeting of the House and Senate Public Health and Human Services Committees at 3:00 pm in Room 172A. **SEN. KEENAN** provided the committee with a letter, **EXHIBIT (phs03a01)**, which is the executive summary outlining the compilation of the Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) since it convened in

August 1999. The full report is available in Room in 233. If anyone is interested in reading the full report, you can bring your questions to the meeting on January 12.

SEN. KEENAN plans to do a brief introduction at this informative meeting and keep the presentation to a hour and fifteen minutes; allowing 30 to 45 minutes for questions. He said the good news for mental health is that there is a budget with a base of 100 million dollars for expenses and a supplemental budget of fourteen million to work with. He also said some providers promised him during the last session that if we got rid of Magellan, they would put together a Montana system - by Montanans - for Montanans, then because a vast majority of providers were getting paid as "fee for services", they took a walk on him, leaving good people on the hook trying to figure the problems out. Now, there is a lot of interest in mental health, because we are going into another budgeting process. He said mental health has been very well taken care of in **Governor Martz** budget.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 5.2}

SEN. STONINGTON wanted to know if there are other major chunks of the public health system that need the kind attention that has been given to Mental Health. She thought Child Protective Services doesn't look in very good shape. **SEN. KEENAN** suggested she get together with Susan Fox and Lois Steinbeck and look at all the aspects of the public health system.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5.2 - 11.8}

Ms. Fox said DPHHS would be doing a series of presentations at 4:30 each day on the various programs covered in there department. On Tuesday, January 9, they planned to do a program of mental health. She would have information for all the committee members to keep them updated. Susan Fox passed out a memo **EXHIBIT (phs03a02)** of services available to committee members. She also has a copy of the task report **SEN. KEENAN** referred to.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 11.8 - 13.2}

SEN. BISHOP passed out two memos, Committee rules of procedure for witnesses and procedures for committees **EXHIBIT (phs03a03)**.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:45 P.M.

SEN. AL BISHOP, Chairman

JEANNE FORRESTER, Secretary

AB/JF

EXHIBIT (phs03aad)